United Nations CEDAW/C/JOR/Q/6/Add.1

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Distr.: General
11 January 2017
English
Original: Arabic

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Sixty-sixth session
13 February-3 March 2017
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

List of issues and questions in relation to the sixth periodic report of Jordan

Addendum

Replies of Jordan*

[14 November 2016]

Note: The present document is being issued in Arabic, English, French and Spanish only.
* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

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1.

1.1. A question has arisen as to whether article 6 (i) of the Constitution should be interpreted to apply to Jordanian males and females or only to Jordanian males. The word "Jordanians" appearing in article 6 (i) the Constitution refers to both sexes, without distinction between them. Jordan has adopted this interpretation on the international level. Any other interpretation defies legal logic and would compel us to regard the general rights and freedoms appearing in Chapter Two of the Constitution as applying solely to Jordanian males to the exclusion of Jordanian females.

1.2. The basis for action in this regard will be the Comprehensive National Human Rights Plan 2015-2025, which the Cabinet has approved and taken up. The plan's strategic objectives include harmonizing national legislation with the Constitution and ratified international human rights instruments. The plan also seeks to promote justice, equality and equal opportunity, guarantee the rights of groups that are most vulnerable to abuse, strengthen protection of women's rights and promote women's enjoyment of their rights in order to achieve justice and equal opportunity. The plan includes a list of policy and legislative demands prepared by the Jordanian National Commission for Women and its partners. The Commission submitted, to the Cabinet and Parliament, a request to amend the Constitution to stipulate non-discrimination on the grounds of sex, particularly as there is no law that explicitly prohibits or criminalizes discrimination against women to which women may resort should they encounter discrimination. Moreover, the Constitution does not address the status of ratified international instruments within the national legal system, and there is no comprehensive legislation on gender equality. Since April 2014, the Prime Minister has been issuing circulars to all ministries and official institutions on the need to comprehensively review legislation regulating their activity to determine the extent to which such legislation harmonizes with ratified international instruments.

1.3. The Prime Minister has also issued a circular concerning follow-up of the implementation of the recommendations in the annual report issued by the National Centre for Human Rights. A committee chaired by the governmental coordinator for human rights with members from the relevant agencies was formed to follow up these recommendations.

2.

2.1. A bill amending the Penal Code is currently before the House of Representatives. The bill defines certain offences and provides for new forms of punishment, including community sentences. It also covers offences that harm the family and persons with disabilities and strengthens penalties for certain offences committed against persons and for sexual assault offences consistent with the Prime Minister's circulars requiring a review of legislation regulating the activity of agencies to determine the extent to which such legislation harmonizes with ratified international instruments and Sustainable Development Goal 5.

2.2. Bills currently before the Parliament to amend the Civil Retirement Act and Family Protection Act (2016) are advancing through the procedures and constitutional channels required for promulgation. The Ministry of Labour is also drafting an amendment of the Labour Code. The Personal Status Act remains

provisional and will be presented to the eighteenth House of Representatives for adoption. The remarks mentioned in the list of demands of the Jordanian National Commission for Women and its partners will be submitted, and a lobby will be formed to support the amendments sought. The demands include the annulment of the Crime Prevention Act. Regarding alternate administrative detention procedures in the case of so-called honour crimes, a committee has been formed in the Ministry of Interior with members drawn from the Ministry of Justice and relevant agencies to develop a mechanism by which the administrative courts may refer threatened female victims of violence to the shelter established for this purpose, which is under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Development and the General Security Directorate.

3.

3.1. Regarding the lifting of reservations to the Convention, the relevant Jordanian bodies may study the possibility of lifting the reservations. The list of demands of the National Commission for Women and the national annual report of the National Centre for Human Rights include the need to take legal and practical measures, particularly the lifting of reservations to the Convention.

4.

4.1. Jordan renewed its memorandum of understanding with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 2014 to ensure greater rights, facilities and privileges to facilitate safe residency and to enable and assist the social and economic integration of refugees and asylum seekers. The memorandum of understanding is particularly concerned with non-refoulment, which is prohibited under the Jordanian Constitution, article 21. Moreover, the Residence and Foreigners' Affairs Act exempts refugees from residency requirements and fees.

Official institutions, civil society and international agencies provide services to victims of violence of all types and raise awareness with a view to ending all forms of discrimination against marginalized groups, particularly early marriage, in addition to providing psychological, legal and social services.

4.2. Since 2014, the Refugee Affairs Department in the General Security Directorate/Community Police has provided security and protection services to male and female Syrian refugees in the refugee camps in collaboration with women's organizations. The offices of the Family Protection Department receive complaints concerning domestic violence and sexual violence from refugees outside the camps. The methods used in investigations and interviews with victims have been changed to promote the humanitarian and social role of the public security apparatus in monitoring and handling domestic violence and sexual assault cases. Victims are encouraged to file complaints with the relevant agencies. These measures have created model of excellence for collaboration between the General Security Directorate and the relevant governmental and non-governmental institutions, which employ specialized staff and up-to-date technologies to promote their role in all Jordanian governorates.

4.3. The Civil Status Offices register the marriages and births of refugees and provide reproductive health-care services to female Syrian refugees, including: prenatal, natal and postnatal care; contraception; treatment of gynaecological

disorders; and health education. These offices also arrange for the transfer of difficult cases to the hospitals. Civil-society institutions are responsible for raising awareness concerning reproductive health, contraception, the risks of early marriage, sexually transmitted disease and other subjects. All births are subject to medical supervision. There have been no recorded deaths of female Syrian refugees in the refugee camps.

5.

5.1. The Ministry of Social Development, represented by Dar al-Wifaq al-Usari home, provides various services to victims of domestic violence. Jordan is the first country in the region to adopt a mechanism for providing family protection services under a single roof in coordination with partners and service providers, such as the Family Protection Department, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, National Centre for Forensic Medicine and civil society institutions. It has done so to promote coordination among the relevant institutions, develop a method of cooperation for providing services to victims of violence, monitor cases and ease the relocation burden borne by victims. The Ministry provides: shelter; medical, therapeutic and social, psychological and legal counselling services; training and rehabilitation programmes for women and girls who are victims of violence; and informal education and literacy classes. Workers in the safe houses of the Ministry of Social Development are trained to apply accreditation and quality control standards in shelters for women and girls who are victims of violence. The standards are reviewed periodically to ensure they keep pace with evolving measures for handling cases of violence against women. All information pertaining to cases handled by the safe houses is entered into a database with a view toward creating a reliable database for the use of all agencies that deal with cases of violence against women to develop strategies and plans for dealing with such cases. The Ministry cooperates and networks with governmental and non-governmental service providers to enhance the services provided to women and girls who are victims of violence. Domestic violence awareness-raising campaigns are conducted periodically and continuously in all governorates of the Kingdom.

5.2. Proactive measures taken to encourage women to report violence include:

- Raising awareness of gender-based violence in coordination and cooperation with international organizations, civil-society organizations and voluntary organizations by holding specialized workshops for workers in this field, giving lectures to educate women about gender-based violence and promoting the rejection of violence as a disciplinary method.
- Familiarizing target populations with the services provided to victims of violence, particularly safe houses.
- Coordinating and cooperating with service providers to ensure that violence committed against women and girls is reported to the competent authorities, so that victims may receive the necessary services.

5.3. Customs, traditions and social attitudes that prevent women from reporting violence:

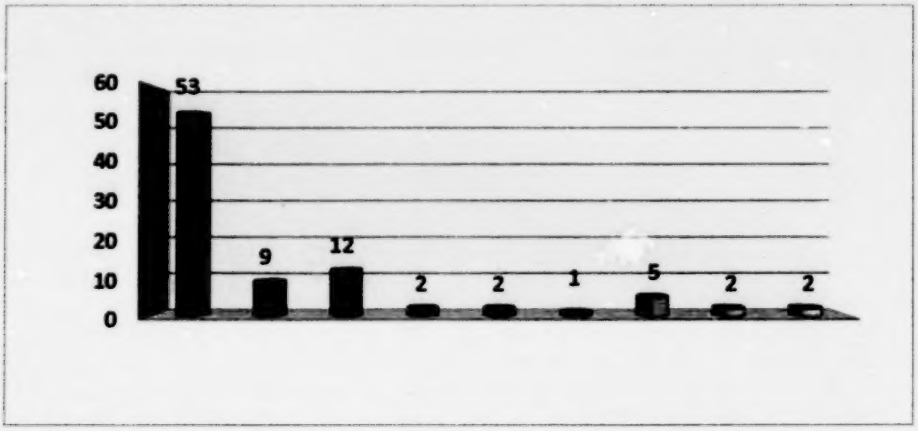
- Cases of violence against women are not reported due to a desire to protect privacy.

- Men are viewed within the family as the authority figure who is responsible for disciplining women.
- Religious teachings are misunderstood and misinterpreted to grant men guardianship of women and to regard the beating and disciplining of women as a religious duty.
- Certain laws, despite having been amended, require further amendment to eliminate residual discrimination against women and to reduce the duration of currently lengthy legal proceedings.

5.4. Approximately 1.4 million Syrian refugees are in Jordan. They represent 20 per cent of the Jordanian population. Of this number, 660,000 refugees are registered with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, of whom 12 per cent are in the camps. Until 2014, the Ministry of Health provided them with all health care, prevention and awareness-raising services free of charge. Since 2014, these refugees have been treated as uninsured (capable) Jordanians, whereby 80 per cent of their health care is subsidized. Certain services continue to be provided free of charge, including maternal and child health services, treatment for thalassemia and inoculations.

5.5. The mission of the National Centre for Human Rights is to protect and promote human rights, spread a human rights culture, monitor human rights conditions, provide legal assistance to persons needing it and take administrative and legal measures to address complaints of human rights violations, particularly concerning the rights of women. The Centre takes action to settle such violations or refers them to the competent executive, legislative or judicial authorities for action to halt or redress them. In 2014, the Centre received 271 complaints, including 172 submitted by males concerning males and 99 submitted by females directly (36.5 per cent of total complaints). Women directly submitted to the Centre 88 complaints demanding their rights (32.4 per cent of the total) and 10 complaints (4.94 per cent) demanding the rights of their children or families. In some cases, a complaint covered multiple violations. The low number of complaints is attributed to a lack of awareness among women of their rights and to a lack of branches of the Centre in the governorates of the Kingdom. The highest number of complaints, 53 (53.5 per cent), were submitted in the most populous area of the Kingdom, the capital Amman, where the Centre's headquarters is located. Fewer complaints were submitted from the governorates due to the lack of branches of the Centre in the governorates and to a failure to promote the role of liaison officers. Twelve complaints were submitted from the governorate of Zarqa' (12 per cent), nine from the governorate of Ma'daba (9 per cent) and one from the governorates of southern Jordan.

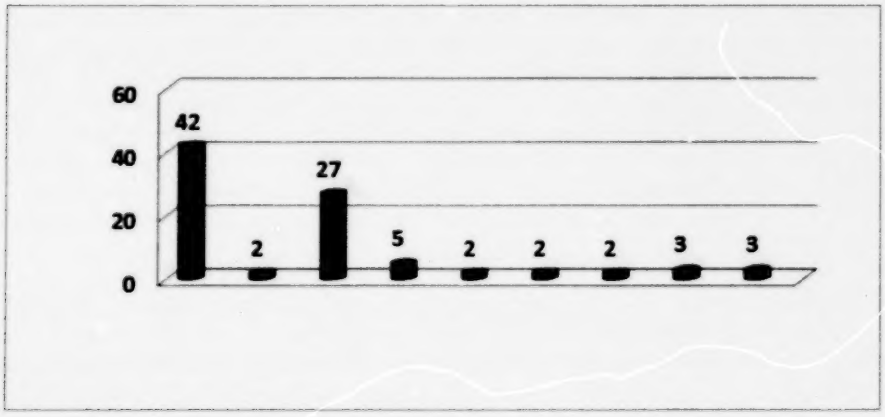
Number of complaints according to governorate



From left to right: Amman, Ma'daba, Zarqa', Salt, Karak, Ma'an, Irbid, Jarash, Ajlun

The following figure shows the nationality of women victims who submitted complaints to the Centre. The highest number of complaints were submitted by Jordanian nationals (42 complaints or 42.4 per cent), followed by Filipino nationals (27 complaints or 27.1 per cent), Syrian nationals (five complaints or 5 per cent) and Sri Lankan and Bangladeshi nationals.

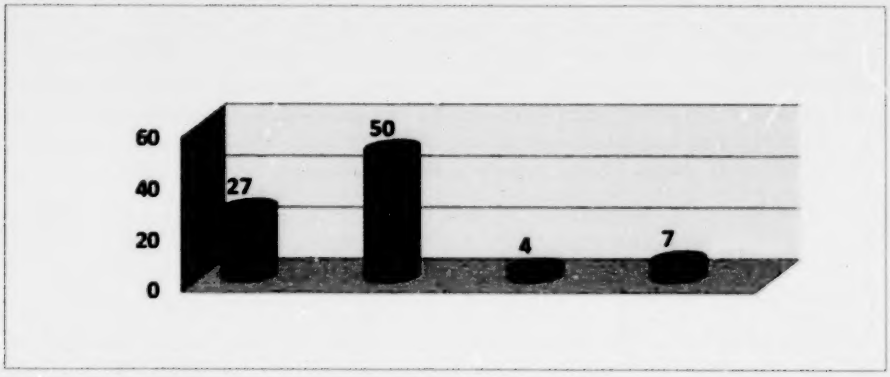
Number of complaints submitted according to nationality



From left to right: Jordanian, Palestinian, Filipino, Syrian, Iraqi, Egyptian, Indonesian, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan

The following table shows that the Centre received complaints mostly from married women, followed by single women, divorcées and widows.

Number of complaints according to marital status



From left to right: single, married, widowed, divorced

Number of complaints according to age group

Age group	*Number*
Less than 18 years	–
18-30 years	24
31-40 years	27
41-50 years	18
51-60 years	11
60-70 years	4

In 2015, there were 16 complaints submitted by persons belonging to groups considered to be the most vulnerable and in need of protection, compared to 15 in 2014. In 2015, there were 41 requests for assistance submitted by persons belonging to groups considered most likely to have their human rights violated, compared to 12 in 2014.

In order to reach the groups most vulnerable to human rights violations, the Centre conducts periodic visits to various locations where human rights are liable to be violated.

5.6. The National Centre for Human Rights implements many awareness-raising programmes for judges, attorneys and public prosecutors. It publishes the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in the form of a booklet, which it distributes through its training programmes for workers in governmental and non-governmental institutions, lawyers, public prosecutors, judges and students of universities and schools throughout the Kingdom. Based on a memorandum of understanding signed with the Ministry of Education, the Convention has been incorporated in school curricula. Sessions are held with school students to raise awareness of the Convention. The Convention can also be accessed on the Internet site of the Centre through the National Observatory for the Rights of Women.

5.7. The Women's Complaint Unit of the Jordanian National Commission for Women receives complaints concerning violence and discrimination against women in the context of the family, the workplace or public life. It helps women and empowers them to obtain their rights as stipulated in the Constitution, national laws and international instruments. It works to increase public awareness of violence and discrimination against women based on full cooperation and coordination with all governmental and non-governmental entities in all areas where women have needs, including social, psychological, legal and health needs.

The Women's Complaint Unit received 39 complaints from women through personal interviews, the Unit's free hotline or email during 1 January 2016 to 1 October 2016. Most of the cases involved legal actions against a husband, such as petitions for separation due to discord and conflict or petitions for maintenance.

5.8. Regarding measures taken to ensure that women are not discriminated against by the criminal, civil and religious courts, particularly in cases of domestic violence, the Family Protection Department has opened branches in all governorates of the Kingdom to receive complaints of violence. According to the statistics collected by the Department in 2015, which are shown in the following table, recorded cases of violence against women have increased, which is due to greater social awareness in Jordan of the importance of addressing violence and not remaining silent about it.

Offences committed against women during 2015 according to the statistics of the Family Protection Department

Type of offence	*Number of offences*	*Number of victims*
Rape	39	40
Attempted rape	20	22
Indecent act	176	182
Act incompatible with public decency	50	50
Incitement to debauchery	3	3
Abduction	2	2
Miscellaneous sexual	6	6
Other miscellaneous	17	19
Sexual abuse against adult females	753	1 751
Sexual abuse against adult females and children together	3	3
Total	69	2 078

5.9. Efforts are made to protect women from violence through national institutions that receive complaints of violence against women. These institutions include the National Centre for Human Rights, the Jordanian National Commission for Women and civil-society institutions. Dar al-Wifaq al-Usari home provides integrated services to women victims of violence. It shelters them and their accompanying female children below the age of five years and reunites women victims of domestic violence with their children. The home's workers provide family and psychological counselling to battered women and batterers, including spouses, parents or relatives.

It facilitates the intake of victims of violence and provides services to them. A branch of the home was opened in the North Region in 2015. The Jordanian National Commission for Women organized a 16-day campaign to eliminate violence against women. The campaign included activities to raise social awareness of the effects of violence and methods and channels for accessing justice.

5.10. Regarding the offering of legal aid, the Jordanian State protects the human right to access justice by incorporating a number of principles and rules that guarantee this in legislation. In this regard, the Constitution affirms that the courts are open to all, and an act has been legislated to permit citizens to sue the government in civil matters and to allow any person damaged by administrative decisions to appeal such decisions to the administrative judiciary. Jordanian law also provides for the right of individuals who lack the means to hire a lawyer to obtain legal aid through the court's appointment of a lawyer at the Government's expense in certain criminal cases, as stipulated in the Jordanian Code of Criminal Procedure. Court-approved translators are also provided for accused persons who are unable to communicate in the Arabic language. In addition, civil society institutions offer legal aid to persons who need it. These institutions include the Jordanian Lawyers' Union, the Institute for Family Health of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the Justice Centre for Legal Aid and the Mizan Law Group for Human Rights. They provide legal aid, health support services and psychological counselling for victims of human rights violations.

The National Centre for Human Rights offers legal aid to victims of human rights violations, particularly victims of torture. It does so directly or through referrals. The Centre also provides legal aid and psychological counselling services to persons who request such services through the National Monitoring Team that is part of the Karamah (Dignity) Project.

5.11. Regarding the measures taken to ensure the independence of the National Centre for Human Rights in line with the Paris Principles, under Act No. 51 of 2006 on the National Centre for Human Rights, article 6 (a), the Centre enjoys full independence in its engagement in its ideological, political and humanitarian activities concerning human rights. The Centre's activity is governed and led by a board of trustees. The percentage of women on the board increased from an original 14 per cent to 38 per cent in 2015. The board makes general policy for the Centre, approves the Centre's annual operating plan, studies and approves the Centre's annual report, approves the draft balance sheet and final accounts of the Centre and issues the necessary instructions for managing the Centre and its branches and committees, including instructions on administrative and financial affairs and supervision of the Centre's human rights activities. Article 3 (a) of the aforesaid Act affirms the full administrative and financial independence of the Centre, which is entitled to litigate. Article 6 (b) stipulates immunity for the headquarters and branches of the Centre in the Kingdom and prohibits the searching thereof without a judicial order. It further requires that the competent public prosecutor be present at such searches and that the Centre be so informed and allowed to have a representative present during a search. Any measure contrary thereto is regarded as null. The Centre expresses its opinion and issues statements and reports with full freedom and without any pressure or interference. The headquarters of the Centre has never been subjected to a search at any time, nor has there ever been any interference in the Centre's ideological, political and humanitarian activities.

Consistent with the Paris Principles, the Centre's board of trustees is formed in conformity with the principle of pluralism and representation of the majority of orientations, ideological schools and social, professional and philosophical trends. In 2016, the Centre proposed a draft law to amend the aforesaid Act. The Cabinet approved the proposed amendment in preparation for the completion of constitutional procedures for adoption of the amendment by Parliament. The proposed amendment is based on full compliance with the Paris Principles, particularly pluralistic and fair representation, and guarantees the independence of the Centre's members in their performance of their human rights functions.

5.12. The Centre discharges its mandate in all regions of the Kingdom without any restriction in respect of geographical region, social group or type of right. The Centre's mandate includes urging the State to ratify Arab and international human rights instruments to which the state has yet to accede. The Centre reiterates its recommendations in this regard in its annual and periodic reports.

5.13. The Centre employs 44 employees, 57 per cent of whom hold specialized, technical positions concerning human rights issues. There are 20 female employees (46 per cent of total employees). Seven of the fourteen unit chiefs in the Centre are women (50 per cent). Based on the Paris Principles, Act No. 51 of 2006 on the National Centre for Human Rights, article 20, defines the financial resources of the Centre as follows: financial support provided by the Government; revenues of financial and cultural activities and projects undertaken by the Centre; contributions; gifts; any other resources approved by the board pursuant to the law and, if the resources are from non-Jordanian resources, by the Cabinet; bequests; and endowments.

In order to enhance the Centre's financial independence, the Ministry of Finance introduced a separate item for the Centre in the General Government Budget Law for Fiscal Year 2015. The Centre's budget increased by 22 per cent during 2014 and 2015.

6.

6.1. The allocations for the Jordanian National Commission for Women in the general Government budget were increased in the years 2016 through 2018 relative to the general government budget for the previous years from 170,000 dinars to 700,000 dinars. The additional allocations have been used to support the Commission with qualified staff. The Commission has thus been enabled to perform its assigned functions in empowering women in all fields. He does so by communicating, promoting Commission members' role in coordinating with non-governmental organizations and with the liaison officers of governmental and private institutions in all governorates, and organizing campaigns to gain support for the laws and regulations which the Commission has proposed on its list of policy and legislative demands.

6.2. The Jordanian National Commission for Women is in the process of updating the National Strategy for Women 2013-2017 to include the objectives mentioned in Sustainable Development Goal 5 (September 2015 global summit) in addition to the other sustainable development goals pertaining to women's issues. The Commission monitors the implementation of the Strategy by public and private institutions, prepares reports thereon and submits the reports to the relevant entities. It also

prepares a list of policy and legislative demands and submits it to the Office of the Prime Minister, members of the Senate and House of Representatives, the relevant ministries and the governmental coordinator for human rights. The Commission prepared its list of demands for 2016 for submission to the members of the eighteenth Parliament. The list includes a demand to amend a number of laws, including the Penal Code (the Commission prepared and submitted to the Prime Minister a position paper on the Ministry of Justice's proposed amendments to the Code; it also prepared a position paper on the Penal Code in collaboration with survive in society and judicial representatives in the framework of its legal action group). The Commission has also sought amendments to the Personal Status Act, Retirement Act, Nationality Act, Crime Prevention Act and Labour Act. It submitted a letter to the Prime Minister requesting the amendment of 11 articles of the Labour Act based on the proposals of the Pay Equity Commission headed by the General Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and the General Secretary of the Jordanian National Commission for Women. The Constitution was amended on 5 May 2016 based on the request submitted by the Commission to the Royal Commission for Reviewing the Constitution (formed in 2011), whereby article 127 (2) was amended to "The regulations of the Army, intelligence service, police and gendarmerie and the rights and duties of the members thereof shall be stated in a law", whereas the previous wording referred to the men thereof. The Civil Service Act was also amended to provide for parental leave and a nursing hour for mothers. The Regulations Governing the Maintenance Loan Fund were issued in 2015 to expedite the payment of adjudicated maintenance in the case of non-performance. Amendments were also made to the Parliamentary Election Act and many other laws and policies.

6.3. The All Jordan Youth Commission implements a specialized programme to promote the role of women in different fields, including politics, voluntary activity, the economy, training and local community group empowerment. It does so through a number of programmes, including the "Our Youth Are Productive" Programme, which trains Jordanian women in a number of handicrafts based on each governorate's nature and connection with the labour market. The Youth Commission also recently initiated the mainstreaming of girls with disabilities through a specialized national team that monitors, supervises and evaluates the needs of girls with disabilities during the implementation of activities and programmes.

7.

7.1. His Highness the King recently issued guidance to the government to promote the participation of women in public life. In his royal letter designating the Prime Minister to form a government at the end of May 2016 and a second government following parliamentary elections at the end of September 2016, His Highness affirms, and is keen on, the role of Jordanian women and the promotion of their participation, which His Highness links to the development of the country. His Highness also praises, in the aforesaid letter, the achievements of Jordanian women in all fields and expresses his confidence in their ability to hold positions as a partner in the development process.

7.2. The Jordan 2025 Vision is a 10-year governmental plan under which the Government's executive programme for 2016-2018 includes an integrated action framework for economic and social policies that seek to provide opportunities for

everyone. The framework seeks to increase women's participation in all aspects of society and close the gender gap in the relevant sectors by reducing poverty and enhancing social protection through greater benefit by women from productivity boosting programmes and training with a focus on female heads of households. It also provides for the development of a mechanism for responding more quickly and effectively to violence against women and the enactment of stricter legal provisions on gender discrimination.

7.3. The Parliamentary Election Act (No. 6 of 2016) lowers the number of members of the House of Representatives to 130 while maintaining the number of seats allocated for women at 15 (11.5 per cent of the total). Women may also stand for election to other seats. In the parliamentary elections held in 2016, 20 of the 130 seats were won by women (15.4 per cent compared to 12 per cent in the previous house).

7.4. The Decentralization Act (No. 49 of 2015), which is being applied for the first time in Jordan, allocates 10 per cent of the seats on each governorate council to women. Up to 15 per cent of the members of each governorate council are appointed, and one third of the appointees must be women. Elections will be held for the governorate councils at the start of 2017.

8.

8.1. A national plan has been prepared to promote implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security. The plan covers protection, prevention and relief measures, the participation of women in emergencies, and the provision of support services to empower victims and survivors of violence in the context of combating violence against women and girls. The plan is expected to be submitted for the Cabinet's approval before end 2016.

8.2. A national plan has been prepared for the Network to Combat Violence against Women (Sham'ah) for 2016-2018. The plan covers activities designed to change social and cultural stereotypes concerning the behaviour of men and women with a view toward eliminating violence against women, prejudices, customs and all other practices that are based on a belief in the inferiority or superiority of one sex relative the other or based on stereotypical roles for men and women. Efforts are being made to enact legislative amendments to this end.

9.

9.1. Regarding the provision of data disaggregated by sex, nationality, age and relationship between the victim and perpetrator, on cases of violence against women reported since 2013, including the number of convictions and sentences imposed, the records of the courts do not classify offences in this manner. The Mizan Programme has however provided the following statistics, which do not specifically relate to domestic violence offences. The Ministry of Justice is working with the Mizan Programme to collect statistics on domestic violence.

	Number of cases			
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Causing of permanent disability	1	82	105	77
Simple battery	5	10 406	17 042	13 939
Beating resulting in death	2	1		
Sexual intercourse with a female		13		1
Sexual intercourse through deception or ruse with an unmarried female who could not resist due to weakness or a physical, mental or intellectual disability	1		2	3
Sexual intercourse through deception or ruse with a female between the ages of 15 and 18 who could not resist due to incapacitation		1		
Indecent act against a person who cannot resist due to a physical or mental disability or deception		9	22	19
Violent indecent act against a male or female under the age of 12, or causing a male or female under the age of 12 to commit an indecent act		77	164	101
The causing of harm that results in the abortion of the foetus			5	1

9.2. A bill amending the Penal Code to ensure the elimination of all forms of violence is currently before the House of Representatives. The bill defines certain offences, new forms of punishment (including community sentences), and offences that harm the family and persons with disabilities. It strengthens penalties for certain offences committed against persons and for sexual assault offences. The Jordanian National Commission for Women has submitted a list of demands for legislative and policy changes that include amendment of the Penal Code to criminalize marital rape and crimes committed in the name of so-called honour.

9.3. Recourse to reconciliation has been expanded through the Regulations on the Family Reconciliation and Mediation Offices (2013). Family courts have been introduced with the objectives of resolving family conflicts amicably, raising awareness of marital rights and duties and providing family counselling. A Family Protection Bill providing for the establishment of family courts has been submitted to Parliament. In no case may a rapist escape punishment under a judgment of the family reconciliation committees. The Jordanian National Commission for Women is seeking, in the context of the House of Representatives' discussion of the Penal Code, the annulment of article 308 of the Penal Code, which exempts rapists from punishment if they marry their victims.

9.4. Juvenile Act No. 32 of 2014 defines a juvenile — in accordance with the relevant international instruments and standards — as any male or female who has not reached the age of 18 years. The Act: creates a specialized Juvenile Police Department; increases the age of the criminal liability of a juvenile to 12 years; requires that the best interests, protection, reform, rehabilitation and care of a juvenile be taken into account when enforcing the provisions of the law; expands the use of penalties that do not entail deprivation of freedom; permits the court to hold its sessions during weekend breaks and evenings and to decide juvenile cases summarily; and creates the post of conflict resolution judge.

9.5. The National Council for Family Affairs released an updated version of the "National Framework for Family Protection against Violence (2016)" and an executive plan for dealing with domestic violence after discussing the strategy and plan with its relevant partners and United Nations organizations operating in Jordan. The update was prompted by the demographic, social and cultural effects of new forms of violence that have appeared in Jordan amid the recent migratory waves reaching the Kingdom. The plan covers methodologies for case management, domestic violence protection, supervision and technical support. It sets forth principles to guide the multiple institutions concerned with protecting the family from violence, explains the roles and communication mechanisms of the partnering entities, promotes follow-up of cases and the provision of services and redefines legal terms. The plan provides for the systematic review of activity in this regard to promote a participatory approach among the institutions serving the needs of the groups targeted by the plan. It also defines the problem of domestic violence and its magnitude, and treats the response of Jordan to the problem in the context of laws and international instruments on family violence protection.

10.

10.1. Persons who commit murder for the motive of honour are in all cases tried and sentenced. The judge may take into account mitigating circumstances (not circumstances that would exempt the perpetrator from punishment) if the requirements for the existence of such circumstances are met. The Jordanian National Commission for Women submitted a request to annul article 308 of the Penal Code with a view to preventing perpetrators of the offences of rape or intercourse with children, regardless of the children's age, from being exempt from punishment. The bill does not annul this article but rather seeks to amend it. The Commission also demanded that perpetrators of homicide motivated by honour against children ages 15 to 18 be prohibited from benefiting from any mitigating excuse (the current Code limits the mitigation of punishment to cases involving the honour-motivated killing of children below the age of 15). The National Commission has also led campaigns, including a 16-day campaign, in all governorates of the Kingdom to gain support for the elimination of discrimination against women, offences targeting women and violence of all types directed against all social groups. These efforts include a variety of programmes and activities and working with legislators in collaboration with civil-society institutions, including the Jordanian Women's Union. Sentences handed down in honour-motivated homicide cases, where mitigating circumstances were taken into account, have not been less than imprisonment of 10 years according to data derived from court judgments.

11.

11.1. Regarding measures taken to ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence, including disadvantage groups of women, have access to remedies and protection, under the Criminal Procedure Code, a harmed male or female may petition for a fair compensation award by claiming a personal right stemming from the damage which the person incurred due to a crime committed against him or her.

The Ministry of Social Development provides shelter and protection in a single location through the Dar al-Wifaq al-Usari home.

Services provided to female beneficiaries at Dar al-Wifaq al-Usari home during 2015 according to type

Services provided	*Total number of beneficiaries*	*North Region*	*South Region*	*Central Region*
Social services	437	71	8	358
Psychological services	320	40	7	273
Legal services	20	5	2	12
Health services	190	30	6	154
Economic empowerment services	175	30	4	141

Services provided to female beneficiaries at Dar al-Wifaq al-Usari home during 2016 according to type

Type of service provided	*Total number of beneficiaries*	*North Region*	*South Region*	*Central Region*
Social services	286	7	10	269
Psychological services	90	4	8	78
Legal services	13	1	5	8
Health services	185	5	7	173
Economic empowerment services	150	5	8	137

11.2. Services provided by Dar al-Wifaq al-Usari home/Centre for Integrated Services for women and girls who are victims of domestic violence and children accompanying their mothers:

1. Shelter: The home provides a safe residence for women exposed to violence, with or without their children, and supplies them with their basic needs (food, clothing, health care, counselling and rehabilitation services).

- Social services, including social guidance services, are provided by female specialists of the Centre for Integrated Services who are trained and qualified to deal with domestic violence cases in individual and group sessions. The specialists also facilitate family conflict resolution.
- Psychological guidance services for women and children are provided at the Dar al-Wifaq al-Usari home by a female psychologist assigned by the civil society organizations that provide psychological services. The specialist holds individual and group sessions and conducts assessments.

2. Medical services: The female physician assigned by the Ministry of Health provides medical and basic treatment services. She visits the centre twice weekly and provides the following services:

- Refers cases requiring medical follow-up to the hospitals and health centres of the Ministry of Health.
- Writes preliminary medical reports in physical abuse cases.

- Coordinates with the National Forensic Medicine Centre and National Psychiatry Centre to arrange for examinations as needed.

3. Legal services: Civil society organizations provide free legal services to women and girls who are victims of domestic violence under memoranda of understanding and agreements with the Ministry of Social Development, including legal counselling and legal advocacy.

4. Police services: The office of the Family Protection Department in the Dar al-Wifaq al-Usari home provides, in its civil capacity, services, including:

- Coordinating between Dar al-Wifaq al-Usari home and the Family Protection Department and its divisions
- Escorting women when they are referred to the courts and hospitals.
- Resolving conflicts that may arise between women and personnel in charge of the safety and security of women in the Department's divisions.

5. Support services: Specialists and supervisors of Dar al-Wifaq al-Usari home provide the following support services:

- Field escorts and completion of processing.
- Telephone communication with female beneficiaries.

11.3 Measures have been taken to create a national register to monitor cases of violence. A statistical register has been used to monitor cases of violence referred to Dar al-Wifaq al-Usari home since the home opened in 2007. The register contains statistical data on each case, including age, sex, nationality, type of violence committed, marital status, educational attainment and economic level. In addition, the National Council for Family Affairs provides technical support to all ministries, institutions and entities that deal with domestic violence cases, including support for the implementation of the Project to Automate the Domestic Violence Response System Used by Institutions. The system is based on the system set forth in the National Framework for Family Protection. The goals of this project are to:

- Institutionalize procedures for responding immediately to domestic violence and providing the necessary services in domestic violence cases through an electronic system.
- Link all institutions that provide services to domestic violence victims, and facilitate referrals and case follow-up between such institutions.
- Ensure a prompt response on the part of national institutions to domestic violence cases based on a collaborative approach.
- Establish a national database for the recording, monitoring and assessment of responses to domestic violence cases.

The trial phase of the system was launched on 17 June 2013. The following agencies were linked to the system: Family Protection Department, Ministry of Social Development (Social Service Office in the Family Protection Department, Dar Al-Wifaq Al-Usari home, Zarqa' Home for the Care of Girls and the Social Defence Directorate), Ministry of Health (Forensic Medicine Clinic, Psychiatry

Clinic in the Family Protection Department, Domestic Violence Clinic in Al-Bashir Hospital in the Domestic Violence Division in the Ministry of Health), Ministry of Education (Abuse Protection Division) and the Jordan River Foundation (Dar al-Aman, a temporary therapeutic centre that provides protection for child victims of abuse). Action will be taken to expand the project to include all governorates of the Kingdom.

During the trial phase, system upgrades were monitored to ensure system effectiveness. The trial phase was evaluated with a view to developing a concept for launching the system at the national level based on a memorandum of understanding signed by all the partnering entities. The memorandum defines the roles and responsibilities of all partners in implementing the project and universalizing it at the national level.

11.4. The Jordanian National Commission for Women held activities during the global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, including awareness-raising sessions and workshops aimed at women in all sectors of the Kingdom, including refugees, to examine the difficulties and challenges facing refugee women, raise the awareness of women in local communities regarding violence (including its effects and ways of protecting against it) and familiarize women with the agencies to which they can resort for services if they are exposed to any type of violence or abuse in public or private life. Throughout the year, awareness-raising sessions are held to confront violence against women in cooperation with members of the Network to Combat Violence against Women (Sham'ah). Visits are made to the Palestinian and other refugee camps to hold awareness-raising sessions on the definition and forms of violence and ways to protect against violence and access justice.

12.

12.1. Pursuant to the Act Amending the Penal Code of 2014, article 208, which concerns torture, article 208 of the Penal Code was repealed and replaced by the following definition of torture: "any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity". Article 9 of the Act to Prevent Trafficking in Persons (2009) provides for a stiffer penalty if the victim is a female or person with disabilities.

12.2. Regulation No. 30 of 2012 on Shelters for Victims of Trafficking in Persons Offences defines a shelter as follows: "a shelter for victims established according to the provisions of the law to: (a) provide protection and temporary shelter to victims until they resolve their problems or are returned to their country of origin or any country of their choosing that agrees to accept them; (b) provide social care, subsistence and psychological, health, counselling, cultural and legal services required by victims; and (c) create a database of victims".

12.3. Dar al-Wifaq al-Usari home/Irbid has been equipped and staffed to deal with domestic violence cases, and a shelter for women and child human trafficking victims has been prepared. An executive action plan has been prepared for the shelters. It covers the shelters' functions and services, the challenges and problems faced by shelter workers and legislation regulating the operation of the shelters.

13.

13.1. The Decentralization Act (No. 49 of 2015) provides for quotas for women appointees to the governorate councils, as mentioned in paragraph 7.4 of the present report.

13.2. The Jordanian National Commission for Women has led national efforts to support the participation of women in political life through a national women's coalition. The coalition sought, unsuccessfully, to amend the Parliamentary Elections Act to provide for one seat to be held by a woman in each of the country's 23 electoral districts. Regarding the importance of the participation of women in the parliamentary elections held on September 20, 2016, and the raising of awareness of the Act, which was applied for the first time to select members of the eighteenth Parliament, the Jordanian National Commission for Women collaborated with the Independent Electoral Commission to run awareness-raising campaigns. The campaigns were intended to explain the Parliamentary Elections Act (2016) and to support the political participation of women as candidates and voters in all governorates. In this regard, the National Commission encouraged women to play their role not only as voters subject to family pressures and orientations but also as decision makers. The Commission also organized courses for female candidates in methods for managing election campaigns, preparing election programmes, registering on proportional lists, selecting competent men and women and raising awareness of the legislation which they will take up in their election programmes and defend in parliament.

13.3. The Ministry of Public-Sector Development, in order to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, is implementing a leadership capacity building programme for women who work in the public sector. The programme seeks to increase the presence of women in leadership and supervisory positions in the Government. The Ministry prepared an analytical study on the status of women in the civil service sector in 2015. The study was circulated under Cabinet Decision No. 10132 of 14 June, 2015 for use in promoting opportunities for women to hold leadership and supervisory positions, particularly in departments where only a small percentage of women hold such positions. The Ministry of Public-Sector Development is working to further develop training courses in cooperation with the National Commission for Women. These courses provided training to 180 women in each of 2015 and 2016 in all regions of the Kingdom.

13.4. Female diplomats enjoy equality with their male colleagues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in respect of all rights and duties under legislation and regulations governing employment in the Ministry. Such legislation and regulations provide for equal opportunity in hiring, promotion, transfers to diplomatic missions and incentives. Female diplomats participate in training courses to motivate them to assume leadership and supervisory posts in the Ministry. In 2016, female diplomats

in the Diplomatic Corps totalled 20 per cent of all diplomatic employees in the Ministry and held 1.13 per cent of the leadership posts in the Ministry.

13.5. Nonetheless, no women have to date served as judges in the Constitutional Court or in the sharia or ecclesiastical courts or as employees in the sharia courts and the Department for the Rendering of Formal Islamic Law Opinions, even though there are women who hold advanced academic degrees and are qualified to hold such positions.

14.

14.1. The list of demands prepared by the National Commission for Women and its partners, and the annual reports issued by the National Human Rights Centre, state the need for gender equality in respect of the right of a spouse and children to be granted Jordanian nationality.

15.

15.1. The measures adopted by the Ministry of Education to reduce illiteracy have brought the illiteracy rate among females down to 9.9 per cent. The Ministry works constantly to eliminate illiteracy, particularly among females. It does so through preventive measures by:

- Providing an educational environment and facilities that catalyse the educational process.
- Using active-learning strategies, methods and techniques (promotion of the role of the student as the centre of the educational process).
- Developing educational reinforcement strategies and tools, promoting the concept of individualization and taking into account individual differences among students during the evaluation process.
- Implementing activities outside the classroom and providing the requirements and facilities needed for this purpose.
- Promoting a safe educational environment and using alternatives to corporal punishment.
- Expanding the Student Parliamentary Councils Programme and parent-teacher councils.
- Implementing a school nutrition programme, particularly in remote areas, which helps reduce dropping out among girls.

The Ministry works to eliminate illiteracy through remedial measures by:

- Implementing an informal education programme (Education Reinforcement Programme for Dropouts) to address the dropout problem and reduce illiteracy, particularly among females. Additional education reinforcement centres have been opened for dropouts, particularly girls ages 13-20 who are illiterate or have dropped out of school. The centres prepare the students and enable them to build their identities. Activities are also held outside the classroom for girls who enrol in the centres as a core component of the educational and learning

process. There are 117 such centres as of 2016/2017, one third of them for girls.

- Expanding the number of adult education and illiteracy eradication centres in all governorates of the Kingdom annually, specifically for illiterate females. In academic year 2015/2016, 251 such centres served girls and 21 served males, which underscores the Ministry's efforts to lower illiteracy among females, which declined appreciably to 9.5 per cent as of the end of academic year 2015.
- Providing textbooks and stationary free of charge to girls studying in the above-mentioned two programmes.
- Establishing the centres' hours and type of learning activities according to the circumstances and needs of girls studying in the centres.
- Providing for flexibility in the rules governing the Adult Education and Illiteracy Eradication Programme and Education Reinforcement Programme for Dropouts in line with international conventions and treaties on the human right to education by allowing non-Jordanian illiterate females to benefit from these programmes.
- Permitting girls who missed the opportunity to complete their school education due to marriage, pregnancy, dropping out or any other reason to enrol in the Home Studies Programme to complete their education. In academic year 2015/2016, females accounted for 37 per cent of the enrolees in this programme.

15.2. Recognizing the importance of equipping girls with the tools they need to play their role in the comprehensive development of society, the Ministry of Education has taken measures to promote the enrolment of girls in secondary applied (vocational) education. The Ministry has designed and instituted a series of vocational majors within the Applied (Vocational) Secondary Education Programme. For this purpose the Ministry has undertaken to:

- Involve girls in selecting and identifying the Programme's applied (vocational) secondary education majors based on the girls' desires, developmental characteristics, abilities and potentials when designing and creating majors, removed from traditional stereotypes.
- Harmonize the vocational majors for girls with labour market demand based on an assessment of current labour market needs, labour trends, and the inclinations and desires of female students based on a collaborative approach and institutional networking between the Ministry and the private sector.
- Constantly motivate girls to enrol in applied (vocational) secondary education, through:
    - o Awareness-raising campaigns and the harnessing of local councils and parent councils to encourage female students to enrol in applied (vocational) secondary education.
    - o Awareness-raising through brochures, pamphlets, student parliamentary councils and the correction of misconceptions about vocations and stereotypes about social roles.

- Support applied (vocational) secondary education for female students by:
    - o Creating an educational environment suited to training and vocational requirements, preparing vocational workshops and equipping students with the necessary tools and equipment.
    - o Preparing and training vocational instruction staff based on quality standards.
    - o Adopting a phased vocational training approach by facilitating networking with private training and operational sectors and taking advantage of developments in vocational practices and experiences.

16.

16.1. Regarding the Jordanian law's coverage of all cases of sexual harassment in the workplace, the Penal Code punishes sexual harassment committed by a co-worker and also holds the employer liable as the person in charge of his employees. The Labour Act provides for the additional punishment of an employer by closing his establishment if he sexually harasses his employees. Under the Labour Act, article 29 (a) (6), a worker is entitled to leave his employment without giving notice — while preserving his legal rights to severance pay, unemployment compensation and damages — if the employer or a person acting on his behalf strikes or insults the worker in the course of or on account of his work. Under article 29 (b) of the Labour Act, if it becomes evident to the Minister of Labour that an employer or a person acting on his behalf strikes or commits any form of sexual assault against an employee, the Minister may decide to close the establishment for the period which the Minister deems appropriate, subject to the provisions of any other legislation in effect. The National Commission for Women has submitted amendments to the Penal Code that would add the definition of sexual harassment to the Code.

17.

17.1. The National Centre for Human Rights provides legal advice and assistance to needy persons and takes the necessary administrative and legal actions to address complaints concerning violations of human rights, particularly women's rights. The Centre settles complaints or refers them for action to the executive or legislative branches or to the competent judicial authority. The Centre has received complaints from female domestic workers concerning the following rights:

Right	*Number of violations during 1 January to 31 August*
Right to obtain identification papers	25
Right to humane treatment	27
Right to be paid for work performed	25
Right to litigate	22
Right to liberty	22
Right to an adequate standard of living	22
Right to residence and movement	22

17.2. The number of women punished for the offence of abortion during 2009 to 2016 according to the Ministry of Justice is shown in the following table:

Year	*Number of women convicted*
2009	3
2010	3
2011	2
2012	5
2013	7
2014	12
2015	11
2016	6

18.

18.1. Under Pre-Marital Examination Regulation No. 83 of 2015, article 3, the parties to a marriage contract must, before notarizing the contract, undergo a medical examination at the relevant health centre. If the medical examination results show that both parties carry the gene for thalassemia or sickle cell anaemia, the centre that issues the medical report in this regard must refer the couple to the genetic counselling centres designated by the Ministry of Health, notify them of the risks of consummating the marriage and obtain their signatures acknowledging receipt of such notification. The report must include the results of the medical examination and the physician's name, opinion and signature. Medical examination procedures are confidential. Any person who examines medical reports is held legally liable for safeguarding the confidentiality of the contents and results of the reports.

18.2. The Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities is studying the reproductive health situation of persons with disabilities in Jordan. The Ministry of Health has formed a committee to simplify procedures concerning persons with disabilities and grant them priority in hospitals and health centres. A Guide to Health Insurance for Persons with Disabilities has been prepared; 248 employees in the health directorates in all regions of the Kingdom have been trained in the use of the guide. Persons with disabilities and their families are educated about their right to health insurance.

19.

19.1. The Ministry of Agriculture has taken measures to promote the role of rural women in development in addition to the activities mentioned in the sixth periodic report of Jordan. The results achieved include rural women's economic and social empowerment, improved work performance and acquisition of skills for posting their agricultural output and household income.

19.2. The National Commission for Women is leading efforts to protect the rights of women and to eliminate practices that deny women the right to inherit or acquire ownership of land and other property. The Commission is doing so in cooperation

with governmental and non-governmental organizations and has prepared a study in this regard entitled "Legislation and the Protection of Inheritance Rights under Islamic Law" (in Arabic).

20.

20.1. On 9 January 2014, a fatwa was issued by the Department for the Rendering of Formal Islamic Law Opinions in Decision No. 194 (2014/2) prohibiting the sterilization of girls with disabilities and stipulating society's responsibility for girls with disabilities. Amendments to the Jordanian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code have been submitted to ensure protection of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities.

20.2. A bill on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2016) has been prepared and referred by the House of Representatives to the legal committee. The Bill represents a major leap forward for the rights of persons with disabilities based on equality, non-discrimination and equal opportunity. Its provisions harmonize with conventions on human rights and on the protection of persons with disabilities — particularly women and children — from discrimination in all civil, political and economic domains. The bill defines as violence any act or omission that denies or restricts the right or freedom of a person with disabilities or harms such person's physical integrity, or inflicts mental and/or psychological harm on such person based on or on account of a disability.

20.3. Cabinet Circular No. 83/11/1/23655 was issued on 21 August 2013 to facilitate the provision of services to persons with disabilities in governmental departments and require government service providers to give priority to persons with disabilities in the provision of any government service. The Higher Council for Persons with Disabilities provided sign language training to 26 staff working in the health directorates in Amman and Zarqa'. Workshops were held to raise awareness concerning primary eye health care in the South Region for families of persons with disabilities, children's sports instructors and physicians and nurses working at Queen Rania Hospital. A training course was held for employees of the Ministry of Health in the rights of persons with disabilities. The Ministry of Health has established a new directorate for with disabilities to monitor their obtainment of their rights and issues concerning them.

21.

21.1. The Personal Status Act has been approved as a provisional act since 2010. It is slated for presentation to the eighteenth House of Representatives. The National Commission for Women networks and collaborates with members of Parliament. The Commission presented a list of demands for 2016, which includes recommendations for amending the Personal Status Act. The Commission also collaborates with the Supreme Judge Department (responsible for supervising sharia judges and courts) and the Ministry of Religious Endowments and Affairs of Islamic Holy Places in reviewing the provisional Act to promote adoption of the demands of the women's movement to amend the exceptions provided for the age of marriage and polygamy. A study is being prepared on the right of inheritance and the right to pursue claims. The study will be submitted to the relevant entities, which will adopt a harmonized formulation. The Supreme Judge's Instructions on Permitting the

Marriage of a Person under the Age of 18, paragraph 4, stipulate that such marriage shall not be a cause for the interruption of schooling.

22.

22.1. The list of demands of the National Commission for Women and the National Annual Report of the National Centre for Human Rights state the need to adopt a series of legal and practical measures, including in particular the lifting of reservations to the Convention and ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.